Number of laws in force in the country

753. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) total number of laws in force in the country — Central and States separately;

(b) the number of laws enacted in pre-independence and post independence period;

(c) whether Government are considering for reviewing old laws governing the lives of millions in this country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) 1069 Central Acts are in force in the country. The information about State Acts in force in the States is not readily availbale. The same is being collected from the State and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(b) The number of Acts enacted in Pre and Post independence period is about 2776 and 3140 respectively.

(c) and (d) Amendment of a law including repeal thereof initiated based upon the need thereof at a given time.

Pending cases before Allahabad High Court

754. CHAUDHARY CHUNNI LAL: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) how many cases are pending before the Allahabad High Court including Lucknow Bench; and

(b) what steps have been taken for the expeditious disposal of the cases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) The number of cases pending in the Allahabad High Court including its Lucknow Bench, as on 31.3.1997, were 8,70,588.

(b) Apart from amending the procedural laws from time to time, Government has taken a series of steps to simplify procedures and speed up disposal of cases on the basis of the advice and recommendations of expert bodies like the Law Commission. Conference of Law Ministers, Chief Ministers and Chief Justices and others concerned with the administration of Justice are held periodically and the recommendations and conclusions emerging from such exchanges and consultations are implemented and their progress closely monitored. In addition, the Allahabad High Court has also taken some steps to clear the backlog of cases, viz. grouping of cases involving common questions of law and the computerisation of records.

Conference of political parties regarding electoral reforms

755. SHRIMATI ANANDIBEN JETHABHAI PATEL:
SHRI BANGARU LAXMAN:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Election Commission held a Conference of various political parties in May, 1997 regarding the electoral reforms;

(b) if so, the details of deliberations and the decision arrived at the Conference for implementation;

(c) whether the recommendation of Conference has been received by the Government; and

(d) if so, the action taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP):(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to information made available by the Election Commission of India, the meeting was held to ascertain the views of political parties on various aspects of electoral process to enable the commission to formulate proposals in this regard. The meeting, however, did not make any formal recommendations.

(c) No,Sir.

(d) Does not arise.